# Legislation Details (With Text)

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| **Title:** | Amending Chapter 33 of the Saint Paul Legislative Code pertaining to permit fees. | | |
| **Sponsors:** | Kathy Lantry | | |
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| **Code sections:** | | | |
| **Attachments:** | | | |

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| 1/7/2015 | 1 | City Council | Adopted | Pass |
| 12/17/2014 | 1 | City Council | Public Hearing Closed; Laid Over to Fourth Reading/Final Adoption | Pass |
| 12/10/2014 | 1 | City Council | Laid Over to Third Reading/Public Hearing | |
| 12/3/2014 | 1 | City Council | Laid Over to Second Reading | |

Amending Chapter 33 of the Saint Paul Legislative Code pertaining to permit fees.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAINT PAUL DOES ORDAIN:

SECTION 1

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Section 33.04 of the Saint Paul Legislative Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Establishment of permit fees.

(a) *Fees required:* Before issuing any permit required by the building code, this chapter or other pertinent provisions of the Saint Paul Legislative Code, the fee as indicated in the following schedule shall be paid.

Where work for which any such permit is required is started or proceeded with prior to obtaining said permit, the fee specified shall be collected and, in addition, a penalty fee shall be collected. The penalty fee shall be equal to the specified permit fee. The payment of such penalty fee shall not relieve any person from fully complying with the requirements of the building codes in the execution of the work or from any other penalty prescribed herein.

Building valuation for the purpose of establishing building permit fees shall be as set forth by the valuation data published by the Building Code Division, Department of Administration, State of Minnesota, as may be amended from time to time.

Value of work other than that included in the valuation data published by the Building Code Division, State of Minnesota, must include the cost of installations, alterations, additions or repairs, including all labor and

materials supplied by the contractor and other sources. The building code officer may require the contractor to furnish the city with a written statement of the actual cost of the work. When such costs exceed those for which the permit was issued, an additional permit fee will be required and collected based on the fee schedule established herein.

TABLE A

BUILDING PERMIT FEES FOR
GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

| Total Valuation | Fee |
|---|---|
| Up to $2,000.00 … | ~~$28.60~~ $29.46 for the first $500.00 plus ~~$3.74~~ $3.85 for each additional $100.00 or fraction thereof, to and including $2,000.000 |
| $2,001.00 to $25,000.00 … | ~~$84.70~~ $87.24 for the first $2,000.00 plus ~~$16.94~~ $17.45 for each additional $1,000.00 or fraction thereof, to and including $25,000.000 |
| $25,000.00 to $50,000.00 … | ~~$474.32~~ $488.55 for the first $25,000.00 plus ~~$12.21~~ $12.58 for each |
| | additional $1,000.00 or fraction thereof, to and including $50,000 |
| $50,001.00 to $100,000.00 … | ~~$779.57~~ $802.96 for the first $50,000.00 plus ~~$8.47~~ $8.72 for each |
| | additional $1,000.00 or fraction thereof, to and including $100,000.00 |
| $100,001.00 to $500,000.00... | ~~$1,203.07~~ $1,239.16 for the first $100,000.00 plus ~~$6.82~~ $7.02 for each |
| | additional $1,000.00 or fraction thereof, to and including $500,000.00 |
| $500,001.00 to $1,000,000.00 | ~~$3,931.07~~ $4,049.00 for the first $500,000.00 plus ~~$5.72~~ $5.89 for each |
| | additional $1,000.00 or fraction thereof, to and including $1,000,000.00 |
| $1,000,001.00 and up … | ~~$6,791.07~~ $6,994.80 for the first $1,000,000.00 plus ~~$4.40~~ $4.53 |
| | for each additional $1,000.00 or fraction thereof. |

Other inspections and fees (applicable to all sections of chapter 33):

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (1) | Inspections outside of normal business hours … | $106.00 per hour |
| | (Minimum charge - Two (2) hours) | |
| (2) | Reinspection fees … | $70.00 per hour |
| | (Minimum charge - One (1) hour) | |
| (3) | Inspections or other services for which no fee is specifically indicated … | $70.00 per hour |
| | (Minimum charge - One (1) hour) | |
| (4) | Additional plan review required by changes, additions or revisions to | $70.00 per hour |
| | Approved plans … (Minimum charge - One (1) hour) | |
| (5) | Inspections of buildings to be moved: | |
| | (a) Garages and group U occupancies … | $70.00 |
| | (b) Dwellings other than group U occupancies … | $106.00 |
| | (c) Structures located outside city limits will have an additional fee of | |
| | Seventy dollars ($70.00) per hour including travel time | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | (Minimum charge - One (1) hour) | |

(b) *Plan review fees:* For valuation under one thousand dollars ($1,000.00), no fee shall be assessed. When the valuation of the proposed construction exceeds one thousand dollars ($1,000.00), a plan review fee shall be paid to the building official at the time of submitting plans and specifications for checking review. Plan review fees shall be sixty-five (65) percent of the total building permit fee as set forth in the table above.

(c) *Expiration of plan check:* Applications for which no permit is issued within one hundred eighty (180) days following the date of application shall expire by limitation, and plans and other data submitted for checking may thereafter be returned to the applicant or destroyed by the building official. The building official may extend the time for action by the applicant for a period not exceeding one hundred eighty (180) days upon written request by the applicant showing that circumstances beyond the control of the applicant have prevented action from being taken. No application shall be extended more than once. In order to renew action on an application after expiration, the applicant shall resubmit plans and pay a new plan checking fee.

(d) *Expiration of building permit:*

(1) Every permit issued by the building official under the provisions of this chapter shall expire by limitation and become null and void if the building of work authorized by such permit is not commenced within one hundred eighty (180) days from the date of such permit or if the building or work authorized by such permit is suspended or abandoned at any time after the work is commenced for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days. Before such work can be recommenced, a new permit shall be first obtained so to do, and the fee therefor shall be one-half the amount required for a new permit for such work, provided no changes have been made or will be made in the original plans and specifications for such work; and provided further, that such suspension or abandonment has not exceeded one (1) year.

(2) Any permittee holding an unexpired permit may apply for an extension of the time within which he may commence work under that permit when he is unable to commence work within the time required by this section for good and satisfactory reasons. The building official may extend the time for action by the permittee for a period not exceeding one hundred eighty (180) days upon written request by the permittee showing that circumstances beyond the control of the permittee have prevented action from being taken. No permit shall be extended more than once. In order to renew action on a permit after expiration, the permittee shall pay a new full permit fee.

(3) Moreover, all work commenced pursuant to the issuance of a building permit by the building official for construction, alteration, repair or remodeling of the exterior portion of a single-family dwelling or two-family dwelling, including an attached or detached garage, must be completed within one (1) year from the date of issuance of the building permit or within one (1) year from the effective date of this chapter, whichever is later. The building official may extend the time for completion upon written request of the permittee establishing that circumstances beyond the control of the permittee establishing that circumstances beyond the control of the permittee prevented completion of the work for which the building permit was authorized.

(4) All work commenced pursuant to the issuance of a building permit by the building official for construction, alteration, repair or remodeling of the exterior or the interior portions of R-I properties or commercial properties where the permit valuation is under $500,000, must be completed within one (1) year from the date of issuance of the building permit or within one (1) year from the effective date of this chapter, whichever is later. The building official may extend the time for completion upon written request of the permittee establishing that circumstances beyond the control of the permittee prevented completion of the work for which the building permit was authorized.

(e) *Suspension or revocation of building permit:* The building official may, in writing, suspend or



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revoke a permit issued under provisions of this chapter whenever the permit is issued in error or on the basis of incorrect information supplied, or in violation of any ordinance or regulation or of any of the provisions of the state building code.

(f) *Refund of permit fees:*

(1) The building official may authorize the refunding of any fee paid hereunder which was erroneously paid or collected.

(2) The building official may authorize the refunding of not more than eighty (80) percent of the permit fee paid when no work has been done under a permit issued in accordance with this code.

(3) The building official may authorize the refunding of not more than eighty (80) percent of the plan check fee paid when an application for a permit for which a plan check fee has been paid is withdrawn or canceled before any plan checking is done. The building official shall not authorize the refunding of any fee paid except upon written application filed by the original permittee not later than one hundred eighty (180) days after the date of fee payment.

(g) *Other permit fees:* Permit fees for other than general construction shall be as follows:

(1) *Wrecking of buildings or structures.* $5.00 per 1,000 cubic feet or fraction thereof, minimum $70.00, with the exception of signs as specified in paragraph (10) below.

(2) *Moving of buildings or structures.* Buildings larger than 12 feet high, 14 feet wide, 25 feet long other than buildings used for group U, division 1, occupancies: $254.00 per move. Group U, division 1, occupancy buildings larger than 12 feet high, 14 wide, 25 long: $84.00 per move. Buildings or structures smaller than size indicated above: $70.00 per move.

(3) *Elevators, dumbwaiters, moving stairways, handicapped lifts and other similar devices:*

a. New construction, repairs and major alterations: One and one-half percent of the total valuation of the work. Minimum charge shall be $125.00.

b. Annual inspection fees:

1. Power driven passenger and freight elevator:

Up to 5 floors in height .....$84.00

6 to 10 floors in height .....$96.00

11 to 20 floors in height ....$107.00

21 or more floors in height .....$120.00

2. Dumbwaiter .....~~59.00~~ $70.00

3. Moving stairway .....~~59.00~~ $70.00

4. Docklift .....~~59.00~~ $70.00

5. Handpowered elevator ....~~59.00~~ $70.00

6. Manlift .....~~59.00~~ $70.00

(4) *Electrical work.* For electrical work the permit fee charges shall be made at the following rates; provided, however, the minimum fee for any permit shall be: one-family dwelling electrical work ~~$43.00~~ $70.00, multifamily, commercial and industrial work, ~~$58.00~~ $70.00.

a. Service: New service, change of service, temporary service, addition, alteration or repair on either primary or secondary service up to 600v shall be ~~$58.00~~ $70.00.

b. Circuits: The fee for the installation of new circuits and/or feeder additions, alterations or repairs to existing circuits up to 600v shall be $12.00.

c. Transformers, capacitors, and generation for light, heat and power: Transformers, capacitors, and generation for light, heat and power shall be computed separately at ~~$34.00~~ $45.00 per unit plus $1.00 per KVA, KVAR or fraction thereof. In addition to the above fees, the fee for all transformers for signs and outline lighting shall be ~~$42.00~~ $70.00 per sign.

d. Alterations, repairs, or extension of electrical systems: For any alteration, repair or extension of an existing electrical system where the work is of such a nature that the fees for a permit cannot be determined from the above schedule, the permit fee charge shall be based on one percent of the total valuation of the work. Minimum fee shall be $70.00.

e. Low-voltage fire alarm systems, remote-control circuits, signal circuits, and low-energy or low-voltage power circuits: For remote control circuits, signal circuits, and low-energy or low-voltage power circuits (in other than single-family dwellings) the permit fee charge shall be:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Fire alarms ..... | ~~$67.00~~ $70.00 per control plus $1.70 for each opening. |
| 2. | Others ..... | ~~$52.00~~ $70.00 per control plus $1.70 for each opening. |

f. Traffic signals: For traffic signals the permit fee charge shall be made at the rate of $42.00 for each service location plus $8.00 for each standard.

g. Street lighting: For street lighting the permit fee charge shall be made at the rate of $31.00 for each control unit plus $8.00 for each standard.

h. Electric space heating:

0 to 4000 watts .....$18.00

4001 watts and up .....$25.00

i. Transient projects: For permits on transient projects, including, but not limited to, carnivals and circuses, the inspection fees shall be computed as follows:

Power supply units-According to items (a), (b) and (c) of the electric work fee schedule.

All rides, devices and concessions shall be inspected, the inspection fee shall be $25.00 per unit.

j. Swimming pools: ~~$67.00~~ $70.00 plus circuit charge.

k. Renewable Energy (Solar, Wind, Etc.): The fee shall be $125.00 for 0-20 KW systems, $300 for 21-40 KW systems. Systems above 40 KW, $300.00 plus $3.00 for every KW above 40 KW (Kilowatt).

(5) *Gas burner, oil burner, coal burner and other fuel burners.* $70.00 for the first 100,000 btu per hour input or fraction thereof, plus $13.00 for each additional 100,000 btu per hour or fraction thereof. Maximum fee for each individual burner shall be $833.00. Where dual fuel installations are made, the maximum combined permit fee shall not exceed $1,513.00.

(6) *Plastering, stucco, re-dash, patching, veneer plaster, exterior insulation finish system and spray-on fireproofing.* The fee is one (1) percent of the valuation of the work; provided, however, that the minimum fee for any permit is $70.00.

(7) *Plumbing fees:*

a. Drain waste and vent, water supply and fixtures.

1. The fee for all initial permits issued by the department of safety and inspections shall be $76.00. In addition to this fee, the fee for each fixture, whether set, rough-in, or replaced shall be $28.00. Each water supply fixture shall be $6.00.

b. Building sewer permit fees .....~~$62.00~~ $70.00

c. Each private waste treatment system .....$213.00

d. Gas burning water heaters, dryers, ranges or other devices including gas piping:

1. For devices up to 100,000 BTU's, each .....$28.00
2. Each additional 100,000 BTU's or portion thereof .....$11.00
3. Minimum fee .....~~58.00~~ $70.00
4. Maximum fee .....~~757.00~~ $833.00

(8) *Standpipes, sprinklers and fire pumps; new installations, repairs or alterations:*

a. The minimum fee shall be ~~$65.00~~ $70.00, in addition to which the following fees shall be paid:

1. Standpipes: ~~$64.00~~ $70.00 for each standpipe for the first five (5) floors, plus $7.00 for each floor above the fifth.
2. Sprinklers: $20.00 for each additional ten (10) sprinkler heads or fraction thereof.
3. Fire pumps: ~~$50.00~~ $70.00 for each pump.

b. Fire extinguishing systems utilizing an extinguishing agent other than water, new installations, repairs or alterations: The fee shall be one percent of the valuation of the



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installation, repair or alteration with a minimum fee of ~~$65.00~~ $70.00.

c. Plan review fees shall be sixty-five (65) percent of the fee as set forth in items a and b. A plan review shall be required for all new systems, special extinguishing agents, and permits having over twenty-five (25) sprinklers.

(9) *Fire alarm systems:*

a. The minimum fee shall be ~~$65.00~~ $70.00, in addition to which the following fees shall be paid:

1. Fire alarm control unit: $20.00 per unit.
2. Fire alarm opening: $2.00 per device.

b. A plan review shall be required for all new systems and permits having over one-hundred (100) fire alarm openings. The plan review fee shall be sixty-five (65) percent of the fee set forth in item a.

(10) *Smoke control systems:*

a. The base fee for the review and approval of a smoke control system shall be $250.00, in addition to which the following fees shall be paid:

1. Acceptance testing: ~~$60.00~~ $70.00 per hour of fire engineering inspection time.

(11) *Water flow testing:*

a. Water flow data, less than three (3) years old, shall be provided to verify hydraulic calculations for automatic fire protection systems. The fee for this service shall be ~~$65.00~~ $70.00. This fee is to be applied at the time of permit issuance.

(12) *Refrigeration:*

a. Refrigeration permit: One (1) percent of total value of work, minimum fee of $70.00.

b. Total value of work is defined under section 33.04 <>(a).

(13) *Signs, billboards, marquees and awnings:*

a. Wall signs and projecting signs: $2.60 for each square foot with a minimum fee of $70.00.

b. Marquees over public property: $138.00 for each installation.

c. Repair permit: Twenty-five (25) percent of the fee for a new sign with a minimum fee of $70.00.

d. Awnings projecting over public property: $2.10 per lineal foot, minimum ~~$58.00~~ $70.00 for each installation. A separate sign permit is required for awnings with signage.

e. Roof and freestanding signs: $2.70 for each square foot with a minimum fee of $75.00.

f. Demolition permit: $70.00.

g. Temporary and portable signs: ~~$52.00~~ $70.00.

h. Billboard extension permits: ~~$48.00~~ $70.00.

i. Additional fees:

1. Additional fee for business signs located in a special sign district when there are additional regulations that must be reviewed: $25.00.
2. $0.50 Minnesota State Surcharge required for all signs attached to a building for permit fees up to and including $1,000.00. For permit fees over $1,000.00 the rate is 0.0005 per permit fee dollar.

j. A separate electrical permit is required for all electrical work done on signs that are lit, whether internal or external.

k. If building modifications are necessary to accommodate a sign installation, an additional building permit shall be required.

(14) *Steamfitting and hot water work:*

a. Fee for new construction or alteration shall be one (1) percent of total valuation of the work.

Value of work must include the cost of installation, alteration, addition and repairs including heat transfer units, accessories to the heating system, including pipe, fittings, and all labor and materials necessary for installation.

In addition, it shall include all materials supplied by other sources when these materials are normally supplied by the contractor.



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b. Minimum permit fee for commercial, industrial, institutional or business occupancies is $70.00.

c. The fee for alterations, additions and repair to existing refrigeration, gas and oil systems shall be based on one (1) percent of total valuation of the work with ~~$64.00~~ $70.00 minimum.

(15) *Warm air, heating, ventilation and sheet metal:*

a. Mechanical warm air heating systems: $70.00 for the first 100,000 btu per hour or fraction thereof, plus $13.00 for each additional 100,000 btu per hour or fraction thereof.

b. Ventilation systems, dust collection systems, pollution control systems, etc.: One (1) percent of total valuation of the work. Value of work must include the cost of installation, alteration, addition and repair, including all labor and materials necessary for installation. The minimum fee shall be $70.00 for commercial buildings and ~~$41.00~~ $70.00 for residential ventilation work and duct modification.

c. *General sheet metal:* A separate permit is required for general sheet metal work. For gutters, flashing, metal chimneys, chutes or general sheet metal work, the fee shall be one percent of the total valuation of the work. The minimum fee is $70.00.

(16) *Incinerators:*

a. Domestic incinerators: $70.00 for each installation.

b. Commercial and industrial incinerators: One (1) percent of total value of work, minimum $70.00 for each installation.

(17) *Fences:* $37.00 for the first 200 lineal feet or fraction thereof erected and $13.00 for each additional 100 lineal feet or fraction thereof.

(18) *Other projects:* For alterations, repairs or extensions for which the fee charge cannot be determined by items (1) through (14) above, the fee charge shall be based on one (1) percent of the total valuation of the work, with a minimum fee of $70.00.

(19) *Reserved.*

(20) *Solid fuel burning freestanding heaters and stoves, nonmasonry fireplaces and fire place inserts:* $70.00. Method for providing positive combustion air must be provided with permit application.

(21) *Solar heating systems:* Permit fees for solar heating systems shall be one (1) percent of total valuation, with a minimum fee of $70.00.

(22) *Parking lots:*

a. Permit fees for parking lots shall be one (1) percent of total valuation, with a minimum fee of $70.00. No parking lot or loading and unloading area requiring approval under the provisions of Legislative Code sections 62.103 <> and 62.105 <> shall be constructed nor shall any existing unimproved lot be paved without first obtaining a building permit. Such lots shall not be used until the construction has been completed and approved by the building code officer.

b. No off-street parking lot or loading and unloading area shall be repaved, modified, reconfigured or enlarged without first obtaining a building permit. The permit fee shall be one (1) percent of the total valuation, with a minimum fee of $70.00.

(23) *Tank installation and removal:*

a. Tank removal: $167.00.

b. Tank installation: One (1) percent of the total valuation, with a minimum fee of $70.00.

(24) *Other piping:* Includes process piping and miscellaneous piping that is not otherwise regulated under the state plumbing or mechanical code. The fee for other piping permits: One (1) percent of the total valuation, with a minimum fee of $70.00.

(25) *Grading:* For the placement, removal or movement of:

a. Up to one thousand (1,000) cubic yards of fill, $32.00 for the first one hundred (100) cubic yards, plus $23.00 for each one hundred (100) additional cubic yards or fraction thereof.

b. Between one thousand one (1,001) and ten thousand (10,000) cubic yards of fill, $239.00 for the first one thousand (1,000) cubic yards, plus $19.00 for each additional one thousand (1,000) cubic yards or fraction thereof.

c. Between ten thousand one (10,001) and one hundred thousand (100,000) cubic yards



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of fill, $410.00 for the first ten thousand (10,000) cubic yards, plus $87.00 for each additional ten thousand (10,000) cubic yards or fraction thereof.

d. Greater than one hundred thousand (100,000) cubic yards of fill, $1193.00 for the first one hundred thousand (100,000) cubic yards, plus $48.00 for each additional ten thousand (10,000) cubic yards or fraction thereof.

(26) Vacant building rehabilitation permit: Two hundred seventy-five dollars ($275.00).

(h) *Fees, exemption for city:* The city shall be exempted from the payment of permit fees required under this chapter where work is done by city employees on city-owned property not exclusively leased or rented to a party other than the city.

It is the intent of this paragraph only that payment of fees are waived. Permits as required by other sections of the Saint Paul Legislative Code are to be applied for and issued, inspections are to be made as required and compliance with all other requirements must be made.

*****

SECTION 2

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days following its passage, approval and publication.